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New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

Letter dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

In my capacity as the Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union, I have the honour to forward herewith the following documents of the African Union:

(a) Decisions, declarations and recommendation adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its sixth ordinary session, held in Khartoum on 23 and 24 January 2006 (annex I);

(b) Decisions adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its eighth ordinary session, held in Khartoum from 16 to 21 January 2006 (annex II).

I should be grateful if the text of this letter and its annexes could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 66.

(*Signed*) Basile **Iko\uebe**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Congo
to the United Nations
Representative of the current Chairman of the African Union

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Annex I to the letter dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English and French]

Decisions, declarations and recommendation adopted by the Assembly of the African Union at its sixth ordinary session

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Assembly/AU/Dec.91 (VI)

DECISION ON THE PROGRESS REPORT ON AIDS WATCH AFRICA (AWA)
(Doc. Assembly/AU/6 (VI))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report and the AIDS Watch Africa (AWA) Strategic Framework contained therein;

2. **WELCOMES** the decision to allocate each of the AWA Heads of State and Government a specific responsibility to spearhead in advocacy to combat HIV/AIDS in Africa;

3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the emphasis in the Strategic Framework on promotion of Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care as well as the crisis of orphans and vulnerable children;

4. **URGES** AWA Heads of State and Government to intensify efforts to maximize the visibility of AWA as an advocacy platform;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the AWA Strategic Framework, and to annually report to the Ordinary Session of the Assembly on progress made.

Assembly/AU/Dec.92 (VI)

DECISION ON A SECOND DECADE OF EDUCATION FOR AFRICA (2006 – 2015) AND THE FRAMEWORK OF THE PLAN OF ACTION FOR THE SECOND DECADE - (Doc. EX/CL/224 (VIII)) Rev.2

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on a Second Decade of Education for Africa (2006-2015) and the Framework of the Plan of Action for the Second Decade;

2. **ACCEPTS** the conclusions of the Evaluation Report, as amended;

3. **COMMENDS** Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) on the efforts made to achieve the objectives of the First Decade; and salutes their collaboration in the evaluation of the said Decade;

4. **ACKNOWLEDGES** that whiie there have been significant advances in many areas, a number of obstacles and challenges which confront the Continent have prevented the full achievement of all the commitment made in 1997 by the Organization of African Unity;

5. **ALSO ACKNOWLEDGES** the need to accelerate and expand provision of quality education;

6. **ENDORSES** the framework of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education for Africa;

7. **CALLS UPON** Member States to devote sufficient resources for the implementation of the Plan of Action;

8. **ALSO CALLS UPON** the Commission, the Regional Economic Communities and the Member States to strengthen cooperation as well as support coordination mechanisms for operationalizing this framework of the Plan of Action;

9. **RECOGNIZES** the existence of other initiatives involved in education in Africa, such as, Education For All, Millennium Development Goals, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), and call for a better coordination between these initiatives and the framework for action for the second Decade;

10. **PROCLAIMS** the period 2006 – 2015, the Second Decade of Education for Africa;

11. **APPEALS** to International Agencies, as well as Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), Civil Society and Development partners to lend their technical and financial support to the implementation of the framework of the Plan of Action of the Second Decade of Education at national, regional and continental levels.

Assembly/AU/Dec.93 (VI)

DECISION ON THE INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF AFRICAN FOOTBALL (Doc.Assembly/AU.8 (VI)) Add.11

The Assembly:

1. **RECALLS** that the Confederation of African Football (CAF), which was founded in Khartoum, The Sudan, in 1957 by South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia and The Sudan, will celebrate its Fiftieth Anniversary in 2007;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the invaluable contribution of CAF to the development of the game of football in the Continent while protecting the interests of Africa in the international arena;

3. **ACKNOWLEDGES ALSO** the efforts of CAF in the promotion of unity, solidarity, peace and reconciliation, its humanitarian activities and its participation in preventive education campaigns against scourges affecting the youth of the Continent;

4. **DECLARES** 2007 "International Year of African Football";

5. **INVITES** all Member States to support their national football associations in the organization of the Fiftieth Anniversary of CAF in 2007, while highlighting the hosting of the FIFA World Cup in South Africa in 2010;

6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the African Union Commission to cooperate with CAF in its efforts to achieve this objective and submit a report on the celebration in 2008.

Assembly/AU/Dec.94 (VI)

DECISION ON THE REVISED CHARTER FOR THE CULTURAL RENAISSANCE OF AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council to adopt the revised Charter for the Cultural Renaissance of Africa;

2. **ADOPTS** the revised Charter as recommended;

3. **APPEALS** to Member States for the speedy signing and ratification of the revised Charter.

Assembly/AU/Dec.95 (VI)

DECISION ON THE STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES (ACALAN)

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council to adopt the Draft Statutes for the establishment of the African Academy of Languages as an AU Specialized Office to be located in Bamako, the Republic of Mali;

2. **ADOPTS** the Draft Statutes as recommended;

3. **APPEALS** to Member States, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), partners and other relevant organizations to support the AU Commission in the promotion of the activities of ACALAN.

Assembly/AU/Dec.96 (VI)

DECISION ON THE LINKAGE BETWEEN CULTURE AND EDUCATION

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Algiers Conference of Ministers of Education in April 2005 and also the outcomes of the Extraordinary Session of the Ministers of Education in Addis Ababa in January 2006;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 1st Session of AU Conference of Ministers of Culture held in Nairobi, in December 2005;

3. **CONVINCED** that African cultural values and heritages should provide the basis for education at all levels;

4. **RECOGNIZES** the importance of African languages as media of instruction and vehicles of culture for the achievement of African Renaissance;

5. **RECALLS** the previous commitments made to protect and promote African tangible and intangible cultural heritages as well as to develop appropriate policies for the development of culture and proportion of indigenous African knowledge;

6. **REAFFIRMS** the indisputable interface between culture and education and the role of both culture and education in sustainable socio-economic development;

7. **CONVINCED** of the need to promote cultural literacy among Africans of all walks of life;

8. **ALSO CONVINCED** that culture and education are important weapons for the fight against poverty, HIV/AIDS pandemic and promotion of peace, stability and governance;

9. **DETERMINED** to eliminate certain cultural practices that have negative impacts on health, development, human rights and education;

10. **RE-COMMITS** to strengthen the interface between education and culture and give our full support to the implementation of programmes and projects to this effect;

11. **URGES** our ministries of culture and education to create the fora for regular consultations and streamlining culture in education and education in culture, in particular through the rebuilding of African educational systems;

12. **CALLS UPON** the Commission, in collaboration with Member States and RECs, to follow up and facilitate the implementation of this decision and to provide leadership in the process of re-instating the linkage between culture and education in Africa, specifically through the African Academy of Languages as well as reporting periodically thereon;

13. **INVITES** UNESCO and other relevant partners to provide support to both ministries of culture and education in their efforts to strengthen the interface between culture and education.

Assembly/AU/Dec.97(VI)

DECISION ON THE DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE IGAD SUB-REGION

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** with serious concern of the drought situation that is affecting countries in the Horn and Eastern African region and most particularly Djibouti, Somalia, Ethiopia and Kenya threatening the lives of millions of peoples and livestock in these countries;

2. **UNDERLINES** the need to sensitize the international community of the impending crisis situation before its further escalation which would result in the huge lose of lives and displacement of peoples;

3. **CALLS UPON** the international community and in particular the relevant UN Agencies to render maximum support and assistance to the affected countries with a view to saving human lives and minimizing the effect of the drought on the livelihood of the peoples.

Assembly/AU/Dec.98 (VI)

DECISION TO DECLARE 2006 AS THE YEAR OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES (Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendation of the Executive Council;

2. **DECLARES 2006** as the Year of African Languages;

3. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with UNESCO and other relevant partners to coordinate activities related to the Year.

Assembly/AU/Dec.99 (VI)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF SEVEN HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT CHAIRED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government;

2. **COMMENDS** the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government for its Report;

3. **REAFFIRMS** that the ultimate goal of the African Union is the full political and economic integration of the continent leading to the United States of Africa;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on this Report in accordance with the Work Plan and the framework of action contained therein;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to consider the contribution of the Brother Leader Muammer El-Gaddafi and all other pertinent ideas discussed during this Session as well as others that may be submitted or arise through consultations with all relevant stakeholders and Experts as envisaged in the Report and to submit a consolidated document with a roadmap for consideration by the Assembly at its next Ordinary Session in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.100 (VI)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS - (Doc. EX.CL/241 (VIII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. **DECIDES** to appoint the following Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights as elected by the Eighth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council:

1.	Ms. Sophia A.B. AKUFFO	(2-year term)
2.	Mr. G.W. KANYIEHAMBA	(2-year term)
3.	Mr. Bernard Makgabo NGOEPE	(2-year term)
4.	Mr. Jean Emile SOMDA	(2-year term)
5.	Mr. Hamdi Faraj FANOUSH	(4-year term)
6.	Mrs. Kelello Justina MAFOSO-GUNI	(4-year term)
7.	Mr. Jean MUTSINZI	(6-year term)
8	Mr. Fatsah OUGUERGOUZ	(4-year term)
9.	Mr. Modibo Tountry GUINDO	(6-year term)
10.	Mr. El Hadji GUISSE	(4-year term)
11.	Mr. Gérard NIYUNGEKO	(6-year term)

Assembly/AU/Dec.101 (VI)

DECISION ON THE 19TH ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS - (Doc. EX.CL/236 (VIII))

The Assembly:

1. **ADOPTS** and authorize, in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter), the publication of the 19th Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and its annexes, except for those containing the Resolutions on Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe;

2. **REQUESTS** the concerned Member States to make available to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights within three (3) months of the adoption of the present Decision, their views on the said Resolutions and the ACHPR to submit a Report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;

3. **CALLS UPON** the ACHPR to ensure that in future, it enlists the responses of all States parties to its Resolutions and Decisions before submitting them to the Executive Council and/or the Assembly for consideration;

4. **REQUESTS** States parties, within three (3) months of the notification by the ACHPR, to communicate their responses to Resolutions and Decisions to be submitted to the Executive Council and/or the Assembly;

5. **WELCOMES** the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on 25th November 2005 and **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to ratify/accede to the Protocol;

6. **REITERATES** its request to the AU Commission to allocate adequate resources from its operational budget to the ACHPR as provided for in Article 41 of the Charter to enable the ACHPR discharge independently its mandate under the Charter;

7. **URGES** Member States, which have not yet done so, to present their outstanding periodic reports to the ACHPR in accordance with Article 62 of the Charter;

8. **REQUESTS** the ACHPR to complete, as soon as possible, the work undertaken on its relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union, including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; and to submit to it, appropriate recommendations relating thereto;

9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the ACHPR to take part in the process of operationalization of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

Assembly/AU/Dec.102 (VI)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD (Doc. EX.CL/242 (VIII))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. **DECIDES** to appoint Mrs. Dawlat Ibrahim HASSAN as a member of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child as elected by the 8th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

Assembly/AU/Dec.103 (VI)

DECISION ON THE HISSENE HABRE CASE AND THE AFRICAN UNION
(Doc.Assembly/AU/8 (VI)) Add.9

The Assembly :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the briefing by President Abdoulaye Wade of Senegal and President Olusegun Obasanjo, the outgoing Chairperson of the African Union, on the Hissène Habré case and reiterates AU's commitment to fighting impunity in line with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act;

2. **DECIDES** to set up a Committee of Eminent African Jurists to be appointed by the Chairperson of the African Union in consultation with the Chairperson of the Commission of the African Union. The Committee shall be assisted in its work by the AU Commission (Office of the Legal Counsel);

3. **MANDATES** the Committee to consider all aspects and implications of the Hissène Habré case as well as the options available for his trial, taking into account the following benchmarks;

   a) Adherence to the principles of total rejection of impunity;
   b) Adherence to international fair trial standards including the independence of the judiciary and impartiality of proceedings;
   c) Jurisdiction over the alleged crimes Mr. Habré should be trialed;
   d) Efficiency in terms of cost and time of trial;
   e) Accessibility to the trial by alleged victims as well as witnesses;
   f) Priority for an African mechanism;

4. **FURTHER MANDATES** the Committee to make concrete recommendations on ways and means of dealing with issues of a similar nature in the future;

5. **REQUESTS** the Committee to finalize its work and submit a report to its next Ordinary Session in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.104 (VI)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE CHAIRPERSON OF NEPAD HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE (Doc.Assembly/AU/3 (VI))

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee;

2. **WELCOMES** the initiative to convene a Brainstorming Conference in Dakar, Senegal to further review the achievements of NEPAD and on possible improvements of its programmes and operations;

3. **REQUESTS** the NEPAD Heads of State and Government Implementation Committee to submit a report on the outcome of the Brainstorming Conference at its next ordinary session in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.105 (VI)

DECISION ON UN REFORM

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Chairperson of the Expanded Follow-up Mechanism on UN reforms;

2. **AFFIRMS** the determination of Africa to correct the historical injustice that arises out of a situation in which the continent is the only region that does not have a permanent seat on the UN Security Council;

3. **DECIDES** to maintain the resolution presented before the UN General Assembly Session and **REQUESTS** all Member States to sponsor it;

4. **RENEWS** the mandate of the Committee of Ten Heads of State and Government and the Expanded Follow-up Mechanism to continue consultations with a view to promote and support the Common African Position as embodied in the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Resolution on UN reform including the reform of the Security Council;

5. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to support this process;

6. **REQUESTS** the Committee of Ten to submit a progress report on this issue to the next Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.106 (VI)

DECISION ON ELECTION OF TEN (10) MEMBERS OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION (Doc. Assembly/AU/7 (VI))

The Assembly :

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the results of the election conducted by the Executive Council;

2. **CONGRATULATES** the following Members of the Peace and Security Council for a two-year term:

1.	Cameroon	(Central)
2.	Congo	(Central)
3.	Rwanda	(East)
4.	Uganda	(East)
5.	Egypt	(North)
6.	Botswana	(South)
7.	Malawi	(South)
8.	Burkina Faso	(West)
9.	Ghana	(West)
10.	Senegal	(West)

Assembly/AU/Dec.107 (VI)

DECISION ON THE REVIEW OF SYMBOLS - FLAG OF THE UNION, ON THE HOLDING OF BILATERAL SUMMITS BETWEEN AFRICA AND OTHER STATES AND ON THE NON-ASSIMILATION OF NORTH AFRICA INTO THE MIDDLE EAST WITH REGARD TO NOMENCLATURE, CONTENT AND CONCEPT – (Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (VI) Add.1, 2 and 4

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE WITH SATISFACTION** of the proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya;

2. **EMPHASISES** that the African Continent is a single human, geographical, political and cultural entity that can neither be partitioned, divided, annexed, nor integrated into any other region or part thereof into any space or continent other than its own;

3. **DECIDES** to submit the three proposals mentioned in the 1st sub-paragraph above to the Committee of Seven Heads of State and Government in conformity with the Decision Assembly/AU/Dec.90 (V) for consideration and make proposals to the 7th Ordinary Session of the Assembly scheduled in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.108 (VI)

DECISION ON THE NON-SUBMISSION OF DECISIONS OF THE AFRICAN UNION SUMMITS TO THE RATIFICATION MECHANISMS OF AU MEMBER STATES (Doc. Assembly/AU/8 (VI)) Add.3

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction of the proposal of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya concerning Non-Submission of Decisions of the African Union Summits to the Ratification Mechanisms of AU Member States;

2. **CALLS UPON** all Member States to sign and ratify the Treaties, Charters, Conventions and Protocols adopted by the Assembly and **REQUESTS** National Parliaments to hold, if necessary, extraordinary sessions for their ratification.

Assembly/AU/Dec.109 (VI)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAN-AFRICAN STOCK EXCHANGE AND ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FUND WITHIN THE AFRICAN UNION TO MITIGATE THE EFFECTS OF THE INCREASE IN OIL PRICES ON THE AFRICAN COUNTRIES
(Doc.Assembly/AU/8 (VI)) Add.5 and 6

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of and **WELCOMES** the two proposals of the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for the establishment of a Pan-African Stock Exchange and on the establishment of a fund within the African Union to mitigate the effects of the increase in oil prices on the African countries;

2. **COMMENDS** the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya for its initiative which is an expression of its solidarity with countries of the Continent that are experiencing economic difficulties as a result of the oil price hike;

3. **DIRECTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to take necessary measures to convene a meeting of Experts to consider the two proposals and to report thereon, with specific proposals, to the 7th Ordinary Session of the Assembly in July 2006.

Assembly/AU/Dec.110 (VI)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN AFRICAN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (AFESCO) (Doc. EX/CL/243 (VIII) Add.10

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the proposal;

2. **REQUESTS** the Commission to consider the issue further in cooperation with a Group of Experts to be set up for this purpose.

Assembly/AU/Decl.1 (VI)

DECLARATION ON THE OUTCOME OF THE 6TH WTO MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE HELD IN HONG KONG, CHINA, 13 - 18 DECEMBER, 2005

We, the Heads of State and Government of the Member States of the African Union, meeting at the 6th Ordinary Session of our Assembly in Khartoum, Sudan on 23rd – 24th January 2006;

Convinced that a multilateral trade system based on fair and equitable rules is crucial for the attainment of rapid and sustained economic growth and development, and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);

Recalling the commitment made in November 2001 in the Doha Declaration by WTO Members to place the needs and interests of developing countries at the heart of the Doha Work Programme;

Recognizing that a faithful and speedy implementation of the Doha Work Programme presents a good opportunity for our countries to be effectively integrated into the global economy and to have a fair share of global trade, which is growing at an unprecedented rate;

Recalling the Cairo Declaration and the Cairo Road Map on the Doha Work Programme, which we endorsed at the 5th Ordinary Session of our Assembly;

Taking Note of the Arusha Development Benchmarks for the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference adopted by the African Union Trade Ministers at the 2nd Extra-Ordinary Session of their Conference held in Arusha, Tanzania on 22-24 November 2005; and

Also Taking Note of the Report of the AU Commission on the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference held in Hong Kong, China from 13th to 18th December 2005;

1. **COMMEND** our Member States and African negotiators, especially the African Group in Geneva, for the tremendous efforts they deployed prior to and in Hong Kong towards safeguarding Africa's interests in the negotiations on the Doha Work Programme;

2. **EXPRESS OUR DEEP CONCERN** and disappointment at the limited progress achieved in Hong Kong on major issues of interest to Africa;

3. **WELCOME** the commitment contained in the Declaration of the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference to complete the Doha Work Programme fully and to conclude the negotiations launched at Doha successfully in 2006;

4. **REAFFIRM** our commitment to a successful completion of the Doha Development Round and call on the international community, especially the industrialized developed countries, to show greater flexibility in their negotiating positions and muster the political will to remove the obstacles to the achievement of this objective by 2006;

5. **EMPHASIZE** that the success of the Doha Round will be measured by its development outcomes;

6. **TAKE NOTE** of the decision by the 6th WTO Ministerial Conference to ensure that the parallel elimination of all forms of agriculture export subsidies and disciplines on all export measures with equivalent effect is completed by the end of 2013 and **Call** for appropriate compensation to African countries that may be adversely affected by the delay in the elimination of agriculture export subsidies;

7. **WELCOME** the extension of the TRIPs Agreement transition period for LDCs and the incorporation of the temporary solution of August 2003 into an amendment of the TRIPs Agreement and **REITERATE** the need for the simplification of the cumbersome procedure, which has rendered the solution ineffective and unworkable in practice;

8. **COMMEND** the Aid for Trade Initiative and **REQUEST** that it be endowed with adequate resources, and appropriate governance and operational modalities that will enable the initiative serve as an effective instrument for the supply-side capacity building which our countries need in order to use trade for development;

9. **REITERATE** the need to expeditiously review the Special and Differential (S&D) treatment provisions of WTO Agreements with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational;

10. **REAFFIRM** the importance of ensuring that the obligations to be undertaken by our countries are proportional and commensurate with our level of development and will allow us sufficient flexibility to determine our trade policies in accordance with our countries' development goals;

11. **CALL** for significant progress and useful outcomes in the negotiations on the issues of implementation; small and vulnerable economies; commodities including cotton: trade, debt and finance; and trade and technology transfers which are critical to making the Doha Work Programme a real development Round;

12. **REQUEST** African Trade Ministers and negotiators to remain engaged, vigilant and united and to intensify their efforts in order to ensure that the interests and concerns of Africa are adequately addressed in the final outcome of the Doha Round of WTO negotiations; and

13. **DIRECT** the AU Commission to take necessary measures to continue to coordinate Africa's common position and, in collaboration with the ECA and other organizations, give necessary technical support to Member States in the WTO negotiations.

Assembly/AU/Decl.2 (VI)

DECLARATION BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE AFRICAN UNION

The Assembly of the African Union, meeting in its Sixth Ordinary Session in the Sudanese Capital, Khartoum, on 23 – 24 January 2006, expressed its gratitude and appreciation to the President of The Sudan, H.E. Mr. Omar Hassan Al-Bashir, for the warm welcome and generous hospitality the people and government of the Sudan have accorded during the Assembly and its preparatory meetings.

The leaders commend the government of The Sudan for the tremendous and historic achievement they made by concluding the Comprehensive Peace Agreement that brought to an end the civil war in Southern Sudan and wished The Sudan well in its post-conflict reconstruction efforts.

The leaders expressed their appreciation for the initiative taken by H.E. President Omar Hassan Al-Bashir to accept the postponement of his term of Chairmanship for the African Union until 2007. The leaders consider this gesture to be a true reflection of the great sense of responsibility and leadership demonstrated by President Al-Bashir.

The leaders agreed after extensive consultations that the Sudan will assume the Chairmanship of the Union in the year 2007. In this regard, they reiterated the importance of implementing the principle of rotation between the geographical regions in the continent.

They also agreed to that the Central Region would submit a candidate for the Chairmanship of the Union for the Year 2006.

A committee to consider the implementation of the rotation system between the regions will set out procedures for the determination of the Chairmanship among them for the coming years in accordance with the Constitutive Act of the African Union.

Khartoum, 24 January 2006

Assembly/AU/Decl.3 (VI)

DECLARATION ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL OF THE AFRICAN UNION AND THE STATE OF PEACE AND SECURITY IN AFRICA

The Assembly:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the activities of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU and the state of peace and security in Africa;

2. **WELCOMES** the progress made in the resolution of the conflicts facing the Continent since its last Summit, in July 2005, in particular the successful conclusion of the transition processes in Burundi, Comoros, Liberia and the achievements recorded in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), including the successful holding of the referendum on 18 December, 2005, Guinea Bissau and Sudan, with respect to the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA);

3. **COMMENDS** the PSC for its work and contribution to the promotion of peace and security in Africa, and URGES it to exert renewed efforts to address the scourge of conflicts in Africa. In this respect, the Assembly **REQUESTS** the PSC to put a particular emphasis on conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction;

4. **NOTES WITH APPRECIATION** the achievements of the African Union Mission (AMIS) in Darfur, in spite of the serious financial and logistical constraints facing the Mission and its contribution to the improvement of the security and humanitarian situation. The Assembly **STRESSES** the need for all parties to abide by their commitments as spelt out in the Agreements already signed and to extend full cooperation to the AU-led mediation to facilitate the early and successful conclusion of the Abuja Inter-Sudanese Peace Talks on the conflict in Darfur;

5. **EXPRESSES APPRECIATION** to the Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) and partners for their contribution to AMIS and **URGES** them to continue to support AMIS to enable it perform its mandate;

6. **TAKES NOTE** of the progress made in the peace and reconciliation process in Côte d'Ivoire and **ENCOURAGES** the Ivorian parties to persevere on the path of dialogue and reconciliation and to extend full cooperation to the International Working Group (IWG) and the day-to-day Mediation;

7. **PAYS TRIBUTE** to all African leaders, the United Nations and the Regional Economic Communities, as well as the AU Partners, for their commitment and contribution to the promotion of peace and security in Africa. The Assembly **FURTHER PAYS TRIBUTE** to all the peace-keepers deployed in the Continent for their sterling efforts and **UNRESERVEDLY CONDEMNS** the attacks against members of AMIS and UN peace-keepers that resulted, notably, in the killing of Nigerian and Senegalese members of AMIS and Guatemalan UN peace-keepers in the DRC. The Assembly **CONVEYS** Africa's condolences to the bereaved families and the Governments concerned.

Assembly/AU/Recommendation (VI)

RECOMMENDATION OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE AFRICAN UNION

As instructed by the Assembly of the African Union at its Sixth Ordinary Session in the Sudanese Capital, Khartoum, on 23 and 24 January 2006, the Committee of Seven chaired by Botswana and composed of the Gabon, Zimbabwe, Burkina Faso, Djibouti, Tanzania, Egypt, held its meetings and concluded the following:

1. That the Sudan shall assume Chairmanship of the African Union for the year 2007;

2. The rotation principle between regions shall be respected when electing the Chairman of the African Union;

3. The region of Central Africa shall present a candidate for the Chairman of the Union for year 2006;

4. A committee shall be established to examine the implementation of the rotation principle for the coming years in conformity with the relevant provisions of the Constitutive Act of the African Union;

5. A Declaration shall be issued by the Assembly Heads of State and Government to express appreciation and gratitude to the people and government of the Sudan for their commendable effort and to congratulate them on their election as chairman of the African Union for the year 2007.

The meeting is submitting the above to the attention of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government for adoption.

Khartoum, 24 January, 2006

Annex II to the letter dated 20 February 2006 from the Permanent Representative of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: English and French]

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EX.CL/Dec.236 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF OAU/AU TREATIES
Doc. EX.CL/210 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **FURTHER TAKES NOTE** of the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

3. **COMMENDS** the Chairperson of the Commission for the initiatives and efforts aimed at encouraging Member States to become State Parties to the OAU/AU Treaties;

4. **URGES** all Member States to prioritise and accelerate the signing and ratification/accession to OAU/AU Treaties;

5. **APPEALS** to the Members of the Pan African Parliament to assist with advocacy and sensitisation of Member States to expedite the process of ratification/accession to OAU/AU treaties;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to examine the recurring problem of inconsistency between some linguistic texts of some OAU/AU treaties and recommend measures for addressing this issue;

7. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps to implement the decision of the Fifth Ordinary Session of the Executive Council held in Addis Ababa, in July 2004 on the review of OAU/AU treaties, including the convening of meetings of experts to examine the recommendations of the Executive Council and to elaborate the necessary legal instruments.

EX.CL/Dec.237 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE MERGER OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS AND THE COURT OF JUSTICE OF THE AFRICAN UNION Doc. EX.CL/211 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Progress Report on the implementation of decision Assembly/AU/Dec.83 (V) on the Merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of justice of the African Union;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Meeting of the Working Group on the draft single legal Instrument relating to the merger of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Court of Justice of the African Union;

3. **COMMENDS** the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Algeria for discharging competently the mandate given to him by the Assembly;

4. **REQUESTS** Member States to submit their comments in relation to the said draft single legal instrument, in writing, by 31st March 2006, to the Commission for compilation and communication to all Member States;

5. **DECIDES** that the draft single instrument prepared by the Algiers Working Group including the comments and observations from Member States, should be submitted to a joint meeting of the PRC and legal experts from Member States for finalization and submission at the next Ordinary Sessions of the Executive Council and the Assembly.

EX.CL/Dec.238 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE APPLICATION BY LIONS CLUB INTERNATIONAL FOR ACCREDITATION WITH THE AU
Doc. EX.CL/212 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the application and the supporting documents submitted by Lions Club International in relation to its request for Observer Status with the African Union;

2. **REQUESTS** the PRC to keep this matter under review and to make appropriate recommendations thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council and in that connection to reconsider the criteria for granting observer status with the AU.

EX.CL/Dec.239 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF PROCEDURE OF THE MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON CANDIDATURES
Doc. EX.CL/213 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the recommendations of the PRC;

2. **DECIDES** to adopt the Rules of Procedure of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures as amended.

EX.CL/Dec.240 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION OF REFUGEES, RETURNEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS DOC.EX.CL/214(VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **EXPRESSES CONCERN** on the persistence and the magnitude of the phenomenon of refugees and displaced persons in Africa;

2. **TAKES NOTE** with satisfaction of the positive developments registered in some conflict situations on the continent, which have raised hopes of the return of refugees and displaced persons;

3. **COMMENDS** the host countries for the generosity they continue to show despite the limited resources at their disposal;

4. **CALLS UPON** the international community to increase assistance to the States and populations concerned;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to formulate a policy that will facilitate access of refugees and displaced persons to education, including at the post-primary level;

6. **NOTES** the progress made in the preparation of the Ministerial Meeting on Refugees and Displaced Persons scheduled for June 2006 in Burkina Faso; and **INVITES** Member States to actively participate towards its success.

EX.CL/Dec.241 (VIII)

DECISION ON PREPARATION OF AFRICA'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE 2006 UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGASS) ON AIDS
Doc. EX.CL/216 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Preparation of Africa's contribution to the 2006 UN General Assembly (UNGASS) on AIDS;

2. **RECALLS** that the outcome of the (April 2001 Abuja) African Summit on HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and Other Related Infectious Diseases (ORID) was Africa's contribution to the June 2001 UN General Assembly Special Session (UNGASS) on AIDS;

3. **ALSO RECALLS** the Continental Forum on Human Rights and People Infected and Affected by HIV/AIDS, held in Addis Ababa in November 2005;

4. **WELCOMES** the creation of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria (GFATM) and **ACKNOWLEDGES** that Africa has benefited significantly from the GFATM in promoting access to prevention, treatment, care and support for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS;

5. **ALSO WELCOMES** the global and African call for Universal Access to prevention, treatment and care for people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS;

6. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the convening of UNGASS on AIDS in 2006 for the Mid-Term Review of the 2001 Declaration of Commitment;

7. **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** the elaboration of an African Common Position as the Continent's contribution to the Report on the Review of the Implementation of the Declaration of Commitments of the 2001 UNGASS;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in pursuit of the above objectives, to coordinate the process of developing the African Common Position in collaboration with Member States and International Organizations actively involved in the fight against HIV/AIDS;

9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to submit the African Common Position for adoption by AU Ministers of Health during the World Health Assembly in May 2006 and subsequently to UNGASS on AIDS in June 2006;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a Report on the African Common Position to the 9th Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

EX.CL/Dec.242 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE INTERIM REPORT ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS Doc. EX.CL/217 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Interim Report;

2. **RECALLS** Assembly Decision AU/Dec.64 of the Fourth Ordinary Session of the Assembly allocating the Headquarters, among others, as follows:

   i) The African Central Bank to West Africa;
   ii) The African Investment Bank to North Africa; and
   iii) The African Monetary Fund to Central Africa.

3. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the nomination of the Great Libyan Arab Jamahiriya by North Africa to host the headquarters of the African Investment Bank;

4. **REQUESTS** the Central and West Africa regions to take the necessary steps to communicate the names of the countries hosting the African Monetary Fund and the African Central Bank respectively to the Commission by 31 March 2006;

5. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to take all the necessary steps to set up the Technical Steering Committees in relation to the establishment of the institutions mentioned-above;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to submit a Report to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council.

EX.CL/Dec.243 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE 5TH PAN-AFRICAN CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF PUBLIC SERVICE Doc.EX.CL/222(VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the convening of the 5th Pan-African Conference of Ministers of Public Service under the auspices of the African Union;

3. **ALSO EXPRESSES SATISFACTION** at the adoption of the Charter for the Public Service in Africa and the Addis Ababa Declaration by the Conference;

4. **ENDORSES** the Addis Ababa Declaration and **INVITES** Member States to ensure its effective implementation;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to work in close collaboration with the NEPAD Secretariat, in the updating of the Charter and its adoption by the policy organs of the Union;

6. **FURTHER REQUESTS** that the institutionalisation of the Conference of Ministers of Public Service be carried out in line with the process of establishing the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);

7. **ACCEPTS** the principle of the establishment of a mechanism to combat corruption in the public service and **RECOMMENDS** that an in-depth study be conducted with a view to determining the modalities and financial implications.

EX.CL/Dec.244 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE FIRST AU SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF CULTURE (CAMC1) Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

4. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

5. **REAFFIRMS** the role of culture in promoting holistic and sustainable development;

6. **ENDORSES:**

   a. The Nairobi Declaration on CULTURE, INTEGRATION AND AFRICAN RENAISSANCE;

   b. The Nairobi Plan of Action for the Promotion of Cultural Industries for Africa's development as adopted in principle by Ministers of Culture;

   c. The African Position Paper on the State of World Heritage in Africa and the proposal for the creation of an African World Heritage Fund;

7. **ENCOURAGES** the effort of Algeria to re-launch the implementation of the Ouagadougou resolution on the revival of the Great African Museum in Algeria in the spirit of African solidarity;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up and report to the Executive Council on the implementation of the Nairobi Declaration on "CULTURE, INTEGRATION AND AFRICAN RENAISSANCE".

EX.CL/ Dec.245 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE LANGUAGE PLAN OF ACTION FOR AFRICA DOC.EX.CL/223(VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Language Plan of Action for Africa;

2. **UNDERLINES** the importance of African languages in the promotion of social justice and sustainable development;

3. **RECOGNIZES** that the promotion of African languages, especially those which transcend national frontiers, is a vital factor in advancing the cause of African integration;

4. **COMMENDS** the Commission and the Conference of African Ministers of Culture for updating the Language Plan of Action for Africa and **CALLS FOR** its implementation at national, sub-regional and continental levels;

5. **REQUESTS** the Academy of African Languages (ACALAN), based in Bamako, Mali, to operationalize the Action Plan and facilitate its implementation;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate, follow up and report on activities towards the implementation of the Action Plan;

7. **ENCOURAGES** UNESCO and other relevant partners to continue to work closely with the Commission and ACALAN in the process of implementing the Plan of Action.

EX.CL/Dec.246 (VIII)

DECISION TO DECLARE 2006 AS THE YEAR OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES
Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** the adoption of the Language Plan of Action for Africa in 1986 and revised in 2005;

2. **TAKES NOTE** of the Nairobi Declaration on Culture, Integration and African Renaissance adopted by the 1st Session of the AU Conference of Ministers of Culture held in December 2005 in Nairobi, Kenya;

3. **RECOGNIZES** the role of African Languages in the socio-economic and cultural development as well as in the political integration of the Continent;

4. **DECIDES** to recommend to the Assembly that **2006** be declared as the Year of African Languages;

5. **ENCOURAGES** all Member States to establish language promotion structures at national level and to participate in activities planned for the Year;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to coordinate such activities in collaboration with UNESCO and other relevant partners.

EX.CL/Dec.247 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE 2ND SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF HEALTH – GABERONE, BOTSWANA 10 – 14 OCTOBER 2005 Doc. EX.CL/225 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **COMMENDS** the Government and People of the Republic of Botswana for Hosting the Conference;

3. **REAFFIRMS** the importance of health in the promotion of socio-economic development in Africa;

4. **ENDORSES** the Gaberone Declaration on "A Roadmap Towards Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care";

5. **ALSO ENDORSES** the decision to convene a Special Session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health dedicated to Reproductive Health and Rights to be held in 2006 in Maputo, Mozambique;

6. **REQUESTS** the Commission, within a reasonable timeframe, to develop, in consultation with Member States, "A Roadmap for Sustainable Universal Access to Prevention, Treatment and Care", for the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as they relate to health;

7. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up and co-ordinate the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report and submit a status report to the Executive Council;

EX.CL/Dec.248 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE REVISED AFRICAN REGIONAL NUTRITION STRATEGY (ARNS) 2005 – 2015 Doc. EX.CL/225 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005-2015);

2. **RECOGNIZES** the seriousness of Food insecurity and Nutrition deficiency in Africa and the efforts of Member States towards alleviating them;

3. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the role of Nutrition in socio-economic development and the achievement of Millennium Development Goals in Africa;

4. **ENDORSES** the Revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005 – 2015);

5. **URGES** Member States to mobilize all sectors of the economy in order to accelerate implementation of the Plan of Action of the Revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005 – 2015);

6. **ALSO URGES** Member States to take all necessary measures to allocate adequate resources to alleviate the major causes of food and nutrition crisis in Africa;

7. **REQUESTS** Member States to utilise the Revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005 – 2015) as a blue-print for drafting their own National Plans of Action for Nutrition;

8. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to provide assistance towards the attainment of the objectives of the Revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005 – 2015);

9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to Report to the Executive Council on the progress in the implementation of the Plan of Action on the Revised African Regional Nutrition Strategy (2005 – 2015) every two years.

EX.CL/Dec.249 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE 'CONTINENTAL POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROMOTION OF SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS IN AFRICA
Doc. EX.CL/225 (VIII) - Annex 4

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the 2nd session of the Conference of African Ministers of Health;

2. **ACKNOWLEDGES** the efforts of various UN agencies, International Organizations, other development partners, and NGOs in assisting Member States in improving maternal and newborn health.

3. **RECOGNIZES** the role of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in the attainment of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) goals.

4. **ENDORSES** the Continental Policy Framework for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) and Rights in Africa ;

5. **URGES** Member States to allocate adequate resources for the improvement of maternal and newborn child health;

6. **ALSO URGES** Member States to mainstream SRH in their National Health Programmes by developing linkages between SRH, HIV/AIDS and other primary health care programmes and to draw inspiration from the Continental Policy Framework for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa;

7. **APPEALS** to the International Community to continue to provide assistance towards the attainment of the objectives contained in the Continental Policy Framework for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa;

8. **REQUESTS** the Commission, in collaboration with UNFPA, WHO, UNAIDS, UNICEF and IPPF, to advocate for the implementation of the Continental Policy Framework for the Promotion of Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Africa and submit a progress report every two (2) years.

* Reservations were entered by the delegations of Algeria, Djibouti, Egypt, Libya, Somalia , the Sudan and Tunisia on the title and some of the contents of the Decision.

EX.CL/Dec.250 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE AFRICAN REGIONAL STRATEGY ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
Doc. EX.CL/228 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the AU Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction;

2. **ALSO NOTES** the proposal by the Arab Republic of Egypt to create an African Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre and commended Egypt for the initiative;

3. **APPROVES** the Programme of Action for the Implementation of the Africa Regional Strategy for Disaster Risk Reduction;

4. **URGES** all Member States and the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to implement the said Programme of Action;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission and the NEPAD Secretariat to facilitate and coordinate the implementation of the Programme of Action in the Continent;

6. **CALLS UPON** the relevant cooperation partners, to provide the requisite support to the Commission, the Member States and the RECs to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

EX.CL/Dec.251 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE 7TH AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR ANIMAL RESOURCES
Doc. EX.CL/229 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ENDORSES** the Recommendations contained therein;

3. **ALSO NOTES** the mission of the AU Inter-African Bureau for Animal Resources (IBAR), the mandate given to the NEPAD Secretariat and the important role of the Regional Economic Communities in the development of animal resources;

4. **APPROVES** the AU/IBAR strategic plan for 2005-2007 and requests that issues related to production and trade be taken into account;

5. **WELCOMES** the adoption by the conference of Ministers of the Comprehensive African Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) II companion document on the livestock sub-sector;

6. **REQUESTS** AU/IBAR and the NEPAD Secretariat to strengthen their collaboration with the Regional Economic Communities and those of research institutions in order to implement the CAADP II companion document on the livestock sub-sector effectively;

7. **ALSO REQUESTS** AU/IBAR to speed up the implementation of planned activities within the framework of the Somali Ecosystem Rinderpest Eradication Unit (SERECU) and prepare a post-PACE (Pan-African Control of Epizootis) programme and seek funding for the final eradication of rinderpest from the African continent;

8. **URGES** all Member States to avail adequate resources to veterinary services and in particular epidemio-surveillance networks;

9. **REQUESTS** the Commission to consider organising a donors round table and to mobilize new resources to consolidate the PACE programme;

10. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to consider organising a donors' conference for PATTEC activities to supplement the current funding efforts by the African Development Bank (ADB);

11. **NOTES** with appreciation the progress made in the implementation of the PATTEC initiative and endorses the recommendation to make necessary changes in the structure of PATTEC coordination office in response of its expanding activities and scope of coverage;

12. **FURTHER REQUESTS** the Commission to report to council at its 10th Ordinary Session on the implementation of this decision.

EX.CL/Dec.252 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT OF THE 1st AU CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS AND GENDER Doc. EX.CL/230(VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the convening, by the African Union, of the First African Union Conference of Ministers Responsible for Women and Gender hosted by the Government of Senegal from 12 to 15 October 2005;

3. **ENDORSES** the Implementation Framework of the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa (SD) and the Guidelines for Monitoring and Reporting on the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa as documents that will facilitate the implementation of the SD and **ALSO ENDORSED** the recommendations of the Conference;

4. **CALLS UPON** Member States to implement all the commitments made in the SD and in particular the gender parity principle;

5. **APPEALS** to Member States which have not yet done so, to sign and ratify/ accede to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa;

6. **ALSO ENDORSES** the recommendation that the Conference of AU Ministers responsible for Women and Gender be held regularly and that the Institutionalization of the Conference be carried out in line with the process of establishing the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that gender is mainstreamed into all the programmes and activities of the Union, including NEPAD, as well as those of the Regional Economic Communities and Member States and be provided with adequate resources;

8. **ALSO WELCOMES** the existing collaboration between the Commission and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), and **URGES** for a stronger collaboration for the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment in the Continent;

9. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the proposal of the Republic of Mauritius to host the Second Conference of AU Ministers Responsible for Women and Gender.

EX.CL/Dec.253 (VIII)

DECISION ON AFRICAN COMMODITIES
DOC.EX.CL/226 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the AU Ministerial Conference on Commodities;

2. **ENDORSES** the Arusha Declaration and Plan of Action on African Commodities;

3. **CALLS UPON** Member States to implement the commitments contained in the Declaration and Plan of Action;

4. **AUTHORIZES** the Commission to initiate activities, in collaboration with Member States, RECs, the Common Fund for Commodities (CFC), UNCTAD, FAO, and other relevant organizations to establish a follow-up mechanism to facilitate the implementation of the Arusha Plan of Action on African Commodities;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to report regularly to the Executive Council on progress in the implementation of the Arusha Plan of Action;

6. **EXPRESSES** its gratitude to the UNDP, the Government of Japan and the CFC for their financial support and to UNCTAD and CFC for their technical support to the experts' seminar and Ministerial Conference.

EX/CL/Dec.254 (VII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY Doc. EX.CL/224 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **ALSO NOTES** the rationalization of the S&T programme of the Department of Science and Technology of the Commission and that of the S&T programme of NEPAD;

3. **ENDORSES** the Consolidated Plan of Action which seeks to undertake a research and development programme in Africa as adopted by Ministers of Science and Technology;

4. **APPROVES** that the Commission, the NEPAD Office of Science and Technology and Member States be responsible for mobilizing financial and technical resources to implement programmes and projects contained in the Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.

5. **ALSO ENDORSES** the call upon Member States, by the Conference, to raise their national S&T budget to 1% of GDP, to ensure that their programmes and projects are implemented.

6. **SUPPORTS** the call by the Conference for effective and coordinated implementation of the Research and Development programme of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action as well as effective mobilization of African Scientists around it.

7. **FURTHER ENDORSES** the establishment of a high-level AU-NEPAD-UNESCO-Working Group to prepare a comprehensive programme for the establishment and funding of Centres of Excellence in Africa for the implementation of Africa's Science and Technology Consolidated Plan of Action.

EX.CL/Dec.255 (VIII)

DECISION ON A COMMON AFRICAN POSITION ON THE UN REVIEW PROCESS ON THE PLAN OF ACTION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS (DOC.EX.CL/215 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **ENDORSES** the Common African Position on the Review Process of the UN Programme of Action to prevent and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms in all its aspects as adopted by the 2nd Continental Meeting of African Governmental Experts on the Illicit Trade in small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Windhoek, Namibia, on 14 – 16 December 2005;

2. **REQUESTS** all AU Member States to defend this Common Position throughout the UN Review Process;

3. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to take the necessary steps towards the establishment of a legally binding instrument to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and weapons in Africa.

EX.CL/Dec.256 (VIII)

DECISION ON PALESTINE AND THE MIDDLE EAST
Doc. EX.CL/235 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **RECALLS** all relevant Resolutions and Decisions adopted by the OAU/AU on the situation in the Middle East and Palestine;

2. **REITERATES** its continued full support to and solidarity with the Palestinian people in their just and legitimate struggle, under the leadership of PLO, their sole and legitimate representative in the exercise of their inalienable national rights, including their right to self-determination, return of their properties and the establishment of an independent state on their national soil, with Jerusalem as its capital, in accordance with the principles of international law, the UN Resolutions 149 and other pertinent resolutions of the OAU/AU and all UN Resolutions;

3. **REAFFIRMS** its firm support for a just and lasting solution to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict based on the relevant International Resolutions, the Arab Peace initiative and the Road Map, and **URGES** the Palestinian and Israeli sides to implement their commitments in order to create the environment conducive to the resumption of the final status negotiations aimed at reaching a lasting, just, and comprehensive peace in the region, to bring an end to Israeli occupation of the Palestinian Territories since 1967, with two states solution, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security;

4. **WELCOMES** the practical and courageous steps taken by the Palestinian leadership, especially the holding of municipal elections based on democracy and transparency, and **EXPRESSES** the hope that the forthcoming Palestinian Legislative Elections will take place without any outside interference and in a free and transparent manner, thereby paving the way for the establishment of Palestinian Democracy;

5. **FURTHER WELCOMES** the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza Strip which it considers a first step towards a full withdrawal from all Palestinian Territories occupied in 1967 including East Jerusalem and **CALLS UPON** the Israeli Government not to use this withdrawal as a pretext to extend its control over the West Bank and Al-quds Al-Sharif, and **CONDEMNS** the Israeli continued attacks on Gaza Strip;

6. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** the Israeli repressive measures and aggressions perpetrated against defenseless Palestinian civilians, including the policy of criminal and targeted assassinations that could lead to a new cycle of violence, and **URGES** the Israeli Government to cease all indiscriminate measures and retaliatory actions, arrests, widespread and arbitrary destruction of property and infrastructure, of official and public institutions, as well as the severe restrictions on the free movement of goods and persons.

7. **CALLS UPON** the Government of Israel to put an end to the construction of the Apartheid Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and around and inside the Jerusalem town, and Israeli breach of its legal obligations under International Law, International Humanitarian Law, in particular the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and **URGES** Israel to comply with the 9 July 2004 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice, and General Assembly Resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004;

8. **FURTHER CALLS UPON** Israel to halt all its unilateral measures designed to create a new fact on the ground, which is at variance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions and could jeopardize the peace process and dash any hope towards achieving a just and comprehensive peaceful solution;

9. **STRONGLY CONDEMNS** all Israeli modifications and illegal measures aimed at altering the status of the Occupied Jerusalem, including Israeli destruction of Jerusalemite houses, the threats of Israeli extremists to storm Al-Aqsa Mosque and Israel's continued construction of the Apartheid Wall and expansion of settlements in and around East Jerusalem and in the West Bank that will severely undermine the efforts towards the establishment of the State of Palestine, with Jerusalem as its capital;

10. **ALSO CALLS UPON** Israel to stop the continuous cycle of violence, aggressions and assassinations against civilians, in accordance with the commitments agreed upon, and to put an end to its occupation of the Palestinian Territories;

11. **URGES** the International Community and the Quartet to provide the necessary political and financial support and to help the Palestinian Leadership to reinvigorate the negotiations in order to salvage the peace process;

12. **REQUESTS** the Government of Israel to put an end to its occupation of all Arab lands occupied since 1967, in accordance with the UN Security Council relevant resolutions including Resolutions 242 and 338, the Madrid Declaration, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map in order to reach a just and comprehensive peaceful solution of the Arab Israeli Conflict;

13. **TAKES NOTE** of the efforts deployed by the Committee of Ten (10) Member States on Palestine established by Decision AHG/Dec.182 (XXXVIII), in July 2002, and **URGES** continued efforts in the quest for a just and comprehensive peaceful solution to the conflict in the Middle East and Palestine.

EX.CL/Dec. 257 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE 19TH ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS
Doc. EX.CL/236 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **RECOMMENDS** to the Assembly to:

   i) **Adopt** and authorize, in accordance with Article 59 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the Charter), the publication of the 19th Activity Report of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and its annexes, except for those containing the Resolutions on Eritrea, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe;

   ii) **Request** the concerned Member States to make available to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights within three (3) months of the adoption of the present Decision, their views on the said Resolutions and the ACHPR to submit a Report thereon to the next Ordinary Session of the Executive Council;

   iii) **Call** upon the ACHPR to ensure that in future, it enlists the responses of all States parties to its Resolutions and Decisions before submitting them to the Executive Council and/or the Assembly for consideration.

2. **WELCOMES** the entry into force of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on 25th November 2005 and **URGES** Member States which have not yet done so to ratify/accede to the Protocol;

3. **REITERATES** its request to the AU Commission to allocate adequate resources from its operational budget to the ACHPR as provided for in Article 41 of the Charter to enable the ACHPR discharge independently its mandate under the Charter;

4. **URGES** Member States, which have not yet done so, to present their outstanding periodic reports to the ACHPR in accordance with Article 62 of the Charter;

5. **REQUESTS** the ACHPR to complete, as soon as possible, the work undertaken on its relations with the various organs and institutions of the African Union, including the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights; and to submit to it, appropriate recommendations relating thereto;

6. **ALSO REQUESTS** the ACHPR to take part in the process of operationalization of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights.

06-25552

EX/CL.Dec.258 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE REPORT ON THE OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT ON THE INFORMATION SOCIETY (WSIS) – TUNIS PHASE EX.CL/238 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **WELCOMES** the result of the Summit and the adoption of the "Tunis Commitment" and "Tunis Agenda for the Information society";

3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the large presence of African Heads of State and Government and the effective participation in the deliberation of the Tunis Summit;

4. **COMMENDS** the President, Government and People of Tunisia for the efforts made to ensure the success of the WSIS and the positive results achieved;

5. **URGES** Member States to establish inclusive national mechanisms for the implementation of the decisions of the WSIS in order to contribute to the achievement of the goals and objectives agreed on, including the Millennium Development Goals;

6. **INVITES** all Member States and international organizations to support and contribute to the Digital Solidarity Fund (DSF);

7. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure that the meetings of Ministers of ICT and the experts group are convened regularly and that their institutionalisation is carried out in line with the process of establishing the Specialized Technical Committees (STCs);

8. **AUTHORIZES** the Commission to organize a Conference of the African Ministers in charge of Information and Communication Technologies with the participation of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Inter-Governmental Organizations involved in the decisions of the WSIS and the African Regional Action Plan of the Knowledge Economy (ARAPKE);

9. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to cooperate with United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and other relevant organizations and to develop a database to ensure inclusive participation of stakeholders in the implementation of regional activities in connection with the decisions of the WSIS;

10. **INVITES** the Commission and relevant organizations to assess the capacity building requirements of Member States and develop a relevant programme in this regard;

11. **CALLS UPON** the Commission to ensure a close co-operation with relevant regional and international organisations as well as the RECs in the follow-up on the decisions of the WSIS.

EX.CL/Dec.259 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE HIGHLY PATHOGENIC AVIAN INFLUENZA (HPAI) Doc. EX.CL/239 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI);

2. **RECOGNISES** the threat posed by Avian Influenza and the potential socio-economic impact of the disease on the people of Africa, particularly with respect to food security and income generation among the rural poor;

3. **ALSO NOTES** the efforts made by the Commission through its Inter African Bureau of Animal Resources (IBAR) to coordinate the actions needed to prevent the introduction of the disease onto the African continent;

4. **RECOGNIZES** the need for African countries to develop appropriate strategies and have adequate means to address the eventual introduction of the disease into the continent;

5. **WELCOMES** the outcome of the Donor Conference on Avian Influenza held in Beijing, China in January 2006;

6. **APPEALS** to development partners to assist to further mobilize financial and technical resources to support national and regional efforts aimed at fighting Avian Influenza;

7. **ACKNOWLEDGES** FAO's support through AU-IBAR within the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) aiming at awareness creation on the epidemiology of the disease on the continent;

8. **ENDORSES** the proposal by AU-IBAR to establish in cooperation with the Davis University of California to establish a Research Programme in Africa at the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania for capacity building and training on the disease in Member States;

9. **URGES** Member States to strengthen their capacities in the field of surveillance of animal diseases, Avian Influenza in particular and to avail adequate financial resources to veterinary services;

10. **CALLS UPON** the Commission through IBAR to assist Member States in developing their capacities and strengthening their national epidemio-surveillance systems for Avian Influenza;

11. **REQUESTS** the Commission to convene a meeting of experts from Member States as soon as possible in collaboration with the relevant international organizations such as OIE, FAO, WHO, Regional Economic Communities (RECs) to collectively develop appropriate strategies to address any eventual introduction of the disease in the Continent.

EX.CL/Dec.260 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE AFRICA-EUROPE DIALOGUE
Doc.EX.CL/240 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Fifth Ministerial Meeting of the Africa-Europe (EU) Troïkas held in Bamako, Mali on 2 December 2005, which reviewed the issues as contained in the Cairo Declaration and Plan of Action;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the EU Strategy for Africa which complements the African Union Strategic Plan;

3. **COMMENDS** the Africa-EU Ministerial Troïkas for the efforts being made on a number of issues of interest to both sides;

4. **UNDERLINES** the need to maintain issues of priority to Africa within the context of the Africa-EU dialogue;

5. **DECIDES** that the Africa-EU Ministerial Troïkas should continue to strengthen the Africa-EU Dialogue and seek ways that could lead to the revitalization of the Follow-up Mechanism provided for in the Cairo Declaration with a view to holding the Africa-EU Summit in the near future;

6. **INVITES** the experts from both sides (Africa/Europe) to develop a joint implementation matrix and study the EU Strategy with a view to translating it into an action plan.

EX.CL/Dec.261 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF JUDGES OF THE AFRICAN COURT ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS Doc. EX.CL/241 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the election of Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;

2. **ELECTS** the following Judges of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights;

1.	Ms. Sophia A.B. AKUFFO	(2-year term)
2.	Mr. G.W. KANYIEHAMBA	(2-year term)
3.	Mr. Bernard Makgabo NGOEPE	(2-year term)
4.	Mr. Jean Emile SOMDA	(2-year term)
5.	Mr. Hamdi Faraj FANOUSH	(4-year term)
6.	Mrs. Kelello Justina MAFCSO-GUNI	(4-year term)
7.	Mr. Jean MUTSINZI	(6-year term)
8.	Mr. Fatsah OUGUERGOUZ	(4-year term)
9.	Mr. Modibo Tountry GUINDO	(6-year term)
10.	Mr. El Hadji GUISSE	(4-year term)
11.	Mr. Gérard NIYUNGEKO	(6-year term);

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected Judges of the African Court on Human and People's Rights to the Assembly for appointment.

EX.CL/Dec.262 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE ELECTION OF ONE (1) MEMBER OF THE AFRICAN COMMITTEE ON THE RIGHTS AND WELFARE OF THE CHILD
Doc. EX.CL/242 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the election of the vacant post for the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

2. **ELECTS** Mrs. Dawlat Ibrahim HASSAN as a member of the African Committee on the Rights and Welfare of the Child;

3. **RECOMMENDS** the elected member of the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child to the Assembly for appointment.

EX/CL/Dec.263 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE STATUS OF THE UN REGIONAL CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN AFRICA Doc.EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.7

The Executive Council:

3. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Status of the Lomé based United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to examine the proposal by Togo and make recommendations on the sustenance of the Centre;

5. **CALLS UPON** Member States to make voluntary contributions to the Centre to maintain its operations pending recommendations by the Commission and adoption of a decision by the Policy Organs of the Union.

EX.CL/Dec.264 (VIII)

DECISION ON MIGRATION AND DEVELOPMENT

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECOGNIZES** the magnitude and impact of migration on development;

3. **EXPRESSES** its grave concern over the growing number of migrants in Africa fleeing armed conflicts;

4. **ALSO EXPRESSES** its concern over the alarming phenomenon of African brain drain;

5. **FURTHER EXPRESSES** its concern over the development of the phenomenon of illegal migration;

6. **UNDERSCORES** the need to implement as a matter of urgency development plans in Africa in order to promote indigenous development;

7. **ENCOURAGES** Member States to finalize and implement the African Consultation and Cooperation Framework for an integrated migration policy, in order to address the problems posed by this phenomenon and to find lasting solutions thereto;

8. **EXPRESSES** its grave concern over illegal migration of African youth, particularly to Europe with all the dangers they face;

9. **DEPLORES** the inhuman and degrading treatment often meted out to African migrants residing in Africa and abroad;

10. **REITERATES** the importance and the imperative need to engage as quickly as possible a global and inclusive political dialogue with European countries in order to find appropriate solutions, within the context of a development partnership;

11. **REQUESTS** the African Troïka and the Commission to place this item on the agenda of its meeting with the European Union Troïka slated for mid-February 2006;

12. **ALSO REQUESTS** the Commission to initiate the necessary contacts with the European Union Commission for the convening of an Africa-Europe Conference at Ministerial level, on this matter in 2006. The venue and date of this Conference shall be determined in consultation with Member States;

13. **REQUESTS** the Commission to convene an Experts Meeting on the matter in Algiers, Algeria at the invitation of the Government in order to prepare a common African position in preparation for the conference referred to above;

14. **DECIDES** to remain actively seized with the matter.

EX.CL/Dec.265 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE REVISED CHARTER FOR THE CULTURAL RENAISSANCE OF AFRICA Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Revised Charter for the Cultural Renaissance of Africa;

2. **APPROVES** the revised Charter for the Cultural Renaissance of Africa, as recommended by the 1st Session of AU Conference of Ministers of Culture;

3. **RECOMMENDS** the revised Charter to the Assembly for ado, tion;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up the signing and ratification of the revised Charter.

EX.CL/Dec.266 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A PAN-AFRICAN CULTURAL INSTITUTE Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Establishment of a Pan-African Cultural Institute;

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the Commission's proposal for the establishment of a Pan-African Cultural Institute (PACI);

3. **WELCOMES** the offer by the Government of Algeria to sponsor the feasibility study of the Pan-African Cultural Institute;

4. **REQUESTS** the PRC to look into the details of the proposal, including the financial implications, and submit its recommendations thereon.

EX.CL/Dec.267 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE CONVENING OF THE 1ST AU PAN AFRICAN CULTURAL CONGRESS IN 2006 IN NAIROBI, KENYA Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the Convening of the 1st AU Pan-African Cultural Congress in 2006, in Nairobi, Kenya;

2. **WELCOMES** the Commission's proposal to convene the 1st AU Pan-African Cultural Congress in Nairobi, Kenya;

3. **ALSO WELCOMES** the offer by the Government of the Republic of Kenya to host the Pan-African Cultural Congress;

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to ensure the preparations for the Congress and to report on its outcome to the policy organs.

EX.CL/Dec.268 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE STATUTES OF THE AFRICAN ACADEMY OF LANGUAGES (ACALAN) Doc. EX.CL/223 (VIII)

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;
2. **RECALLS** Decision CM/Dec.613 (LXXIV) on the Establishment of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) adopted by the Council of Ministers of the OAU in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001;
3. **APPROVES** the Draft Statutes for the establishment of the African Academy of Languages (ACALAN) as an AU Specialized Office to be located in Bamako, Republic of Mali;
4. **COMMENDS** the Government of the Republic of Mali for hosting the ACALAN;
5. **RECOMMENDS** the Draft Statutes to the Assembly for adoption;
6. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow-up on the establishment and overall activities of ACALAN;
7. **CALLS UPON** UNESCO and other relevant partners to support and cooperate with the Commission in promoting the activities of ACALAN.

EX.CL/Dec.269 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE AFRICA – DIASPORA PROCESS

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report of the Commission on the African Diaspora Process;

2. **COMMENDS** the initiatives and efforts of the Commission and Member States to advance and promote relations between the Continent and the African Diaspora;

3. **SUPPORTS** the hosting of the 2nd Africa-Caribbean Conference in the Republic of South Africa, in 2007 and **REQUESTS** South Africa and the Commission to cooperate in this regard;

4. **CALLS UPON** Member States and the Communities in the Diaspora to participate in the 2nd Conference of Intellectuals of Africa and the Diaspora scheduled in Brazil, in July 2006;

5. **REAFFIRMS** the need for continued and sustained efforts in this direction;

6. **REQUESTS** the Chairperson of the Commission to take necessary steps to facilitate the convening of an Africa – South America Summit in May 2006.

EX.CL/Dec.270 (VIII)

DECISION ON SOMALIA

The Executive Council:

1. **WELCOMES** the rapprochement being initiated to settle the differences among members of the Transitional Federal Institutions and in particular the recent Aden Declaration signed on 4th January 2006 and **ENCOURAGES** them to work together in the interest of consolidating the outcome of the peace process for effective functioning of the Transitional Federal Institutions;

2. **RECALLS** the earlier decisions of the Peace and Security Council (PSC) on the deployment of an IGAD Peace Support Mission to Somalia (IGASOM), to be followed by an AU Peace Support Mission, and **CALLS UPON** the UN Security Council to provide an exemption on the arms embargo on Somalia with a view to facilitating the envisaged deployments;

3. **REQUESTS** the PSC to play a more proactive role in speeding up the process of peace support mission to Somalia and, in this connection, **DECIDES** that a review panel composed of AU Commission, IGAD Secretariat and the Transitional Federal Government (TFG) be established to undertake a comprehensive review on the arms embargo and submit a proposal to the UN Security Council following endorsement by the AU Peace and Security Council;

4. **CONDEMNS** all acts of violence perpetrated by groups who continue to undermine the outcome of the peace process and underlines the need to take measures including referral to the UN Security Council, International Criminal Court and International Court of Justice, to take appropriate measures against those who persist in obstructing the peace process in Somalia;

5. **COMMENDS** the Commission for the steps taken to establish an AU Liaison Office in Johar and **REQUESTS** it to render all possible support to strengthen the Transitional Federal Institutions of Somalia;

6. **CALLS UPON** the international community to extend assistance and support to the Transitional Federal Institutions to enable them exercise their functions effectively and contribute towards the reconstruction of Somalia;

7. **URGES** all Member States and the Commission to play an advocacy role to ensure adequate mobilization of support for Somalia by the international community.

EX.CL/Dec.271 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE SITUATION IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE

The Executive Council:

1. **EXPRESSES** deep concern at the serious events that took place in January 2006 in Côte d'Ivoire and particularly **REGRETS** the deaths of civilians and damage to property that occurred during those events;

2. **NOTES WITH CONCERN** that the recurrence of such serious events can only undermine the sustained efforts made by the African Union, ECOWAS, the United Nations and the international community at large, in support of the peace process;

3. **CONDEMNS** in the strongest terms the acts of violence that were directed against ONUCI and its assets, as well as other acts of violence and intimidation.

4. **REQUESTS** all concerned parties to refrain immediately from all acts of violence, issuance of inflammatory statements and other actions that may further aggravate the situation and to commit themselves in earnest to the peace process and to create conditions propitious to the attainment of a lasting peace and reconciliation;

5. **REITERATES** its full support to the efforts exerted by the International Working Group (IWG) and the day-to-day Mediation, as well as by the United Nations;

6. **APPEALS** to all parties to extend full cooperation to ONUCI, the IWG and the day-to-day Mediation in order to facilitate the full and effective implementation of all Agreements reached as well as the United Nations Security Council resolution 1633;

7. **COMMENDS** the efforts made by H.E. Olusegun Obasanjo, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Chairperson of the African Union, H.E. Thabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa an AU Mediator, and H.E. Mamadou Tandja, President of the Republic of Niger and Current Chairperson of ECOWAS, to assist the Ivorian parties overcome the difficulties encountered in the peace process;

8. **WELCOMES** the visit of President Olusegun Obasanjo, in January 2006, to Cote d'Ivoire to help defuse the tension that arose recently;

9. **ENCOURAGES** the Ivorian parties and the people of Cote d'Ivoire in general, to persevere in their efforts aimed at seeking lasting solution to the crisis through peaceful means and dialogue with the support of the international community.

EX.CL/Dec.272 (VIII)

DECISION ON AFRICAN CANDIDATURES IN THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the report of the Ministerial Committee on Candidatures;

2. **APPROVES** the recommendations contained in the report;

3. **DECIDES** to approve the following candidatures:

   - Mr. Tayeb Chérif, of Algeria, for re-election to the post of Secretary General of the International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO), at elections holding in March 2006;

   - Justice Akua Kuenyehia, which received support by decision EX.CL/Dec.234(VII) adopted in Sirte, Libya, in July 2005 to the post of Judge in the International Criminal Court (ICC) under African States Regional Group (List B).

4. **REQUESTS** the Commission to obtain more information from the African Group in Vienna to enable the Committee to make appropriate recommendations to the Council on the subject of the Nigerian candidature to the Council of Governors of the IAEA;

5. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the candidatures of Mr. Abdelkerim Boussaid of Algeria, to the post of Director of Telecommunication Development of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), and of Mr. Hamadoun I. Touré of Mali, current Director of the Telecommunications Development Office (TDO-ITU), candidate to the post of Secretary General of the International Telecommunications Union (ITU);

6. **DEFERS** the consideration of these candidatures until such time as the positions are declared vacant in order to give an opportunity to other interested Member States to present their candidatures in conformity with the Rules of Procedure of the Committee on Candidatures;

7. **DELEGATES** its powers to the members of the Committee on Candidatures within the Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC) in Addis Ababa to consider, in May 2006, these candidatures and make appropriate recommendations to the Executive Council on the selection of African candidatures to these positions.

EX.CL/Dec.273 (VIII)

DECISION ON AFRICAN YOUTH

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report on the 23rd Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France held in Bamako from 3 to 4 December 2005 under the theme: " The African Youth: Vitality, Creativity and Aspirations";

2. **ALSO TAKES NOTE** of the concerns and expectations of the African youth as contained in the Statement delivered to the Heads of State and Government of Africa and France by the participants in the African Youth Forum organized in Bamako from 8 to 9 December 2005;

3. **UNDERSCORES** the urgent need to restore hope and confidence to the African youth and define conditions that will enable them to fully play a greater role in Africa's development;

4. **WELCOMES** the relevant recommendations arising from the 23rd Conference of Heads of State and Government of Africa and France; and

5. **SUPPORTS** the initiative of the President of the Republic of France, Mr. Jacques Chirac, on the "solidarity levy on air tickets" to combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other related diseases;

6. **INVITES** the Commission to:

   i) examine further the proposed establishment of an "Euro-African Investment Fund" within the context of the Africa-Europe Dialogue;

   ii) place immigration on the agenda of the Africa-Europe Dialogue, particularly of the Troika and the forthcoming Africa-Europe Summit;

   iii) sensitize the partners on the need for greater mobilization of financial resources to backstop national and regional efforts to combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, tuberculosis and other related diseases.

EX/CL/Dec.274 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE PROPOSALS BY THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLES' LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA

1. Revision of symbols taken over from the OAU and creation of new symbols which distinguish the Union from the OAU: flag of the Union – Doc.EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.1;

2. Holding of Bilateral Summits between Africa and certain States and Establishment of a Mechanism to participate in these Summits – Doc.EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.2;

3. Non-submission of decisions taken by the African Union Summits to the usual ratification mechanisms within Member States of the Union – Doc.EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.3;

4. Non-assimilation of North Africa to the Middle East with regard to denomination, content and concept – Doc.EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.4;

5. Creation of a Pan-African Stock Exchange with Seat in Egypt or South Africa – Doc.EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.5;

6. The Establishment of a Fund within the African Union to alleviate the effects of the increase in oil price on the poor African countries – Doc.EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.6.

The Executive Council:

TAKES NOTE of the proposals made by the Great Socialist Peoples' Libyan Arab Jamahiriya and, at its requests, **DECIDES** to refer these proposals to the Assembly for its direct consideration.

EX.CL/Dec.275 (VIII)

DECISION ON THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH AN AFRICAN EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND CULTURAL ORGANIZATION (AFESCO)
Doc. EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.10

The Executive Council:

TAKES NOTE of the proposal made by the Sudan, and at its request **DECIDES** to refer the proposal to the Assembly for its direct consideration.

EX.CL/Dec.276 (VIII)

DECISION ON RATIFICATION OF THE TREATY OF PELINDABA (TREATY ESTABLISHING AFRICA AS A NUCLEAR WEAPON FREE ZONE) Doc. EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.15

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Report;

2. **RECALLS** that the African Nuclear-Weapon-Free Zone Treaty (Treaty of Pelindaba) which established Africa as a nuclear weapon free zone was opened for signature on 12 April 1996, in the city of Cairo, Egypt;

3. **NOTES** with concern that the Treaty of Pelindaba has not entered into force because enough Member States have not ratified it;

4. **CALLS UPON** Member States that have not yet ratified it, to do so for the Treaty to enter into force during this tenth year of its opening for signature;

5. **REQUESTS** the Commission to follow up on the matter with Member States.

EX.CL/Dec.277 (VIII)

DECISION ON MARKING OF THE EMANCIPATION DAY IN AFRICA
Doc. EX.CL/243 (VIII) Add.8

The Executive Council:

1. **TAKES NOTE** of the Proposal;

2. **DECIDES** to mark 1st August of every year as Emancipation Day in solidarity with the African Diaspora;

3. **REQUESTS** Member States to organize activities to mark the day.